

SAPC-7351
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26 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director
SUBJECT : Proposed Attempt to Establish
World's Altitude Record

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1. During [] visit to Headquarters he mentioned the capability we have to establish, with practically no effort, a world's altitude record with our aircraft. He said that NACA should be able to give us appropriate instruments by which such a record could be verified and secrecy maintained until some future date when it could be publicly released.

2. On the same day, [] visited me prior to departing for Hartford and []. He also stated that a good deal of interest could be developed at [] if we would make a flight to establish a world record. He said that he thought we could possibly run the -31 engine for 20 minutes at over-temperature to gain several thousand feet stabilized altitude above what we had been able to achieve. I told him I thought this was unnecessary since with normal tailpipe temperature and operating conditions we could establish a world altitude record that would take some time to beat.

3. If you approve this being done, I will take the following action:

a. Have [] contact NACA to see if they have appropriate instrumentation and will lend it to us to make an altitude record run.

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b. If NACA has the equipment and will lend it to us, I will set up a mission at [] on a non-interference basis with regard to training and flight testing to make one altitude run with appropriate instrumentation to establish a world's altitude record.

c. I will have [] establish some kind of system whereby the pilot chosen to make the run would be chosen by a raffle or some other objective system where no partiality could be shown.

d. After the record is established the accomplishment would be held classified within NACA and within Air Force circles until some future releasable date.

SIGNED

J. A. GIBBS
Deputy Project Director

Cy 1 - RMB
2 - Ops
3 - JAG
4 - Adm/Sec